

Table of Contents

	<i>Page No.</i>
Executive Summary	1-1
Introduction	1-1
Purpose and Need	1-2
Alternatives Considered	1-3
Environmental Consequences	1-3
Public and Agency Coordination	1-5
Public Involvement Following Completion of EA	1-5
Chapter 1.0: Purpose and Need for Proposed Action	1-1
1.1 Introduction	1-1
1.2 Project Location	1-1
1.3 Project Background	1-2
1.4 Proposed Action	1-3
1.5 Purpose and Need	1-4
1.6 Previous Studies	1-5
1.7 Planning Context	1-6
1.8 Existing Roadway Projects	1-6
1.9 Planned Transportation Projects	1-6
Chapter 2.0: Alternatives Considered	2-1
2.1 Introduction	2-1
2.2 Overview of Screening Process	2-1
2.3 Alternatives Considered	2-2
2.3.1 Alternative 1: No-Action, Retaining the Existing I-70/Gun Club Diamond and the I-70/Colfax Ramps and Adding Committed E-470 Flyby Over I-70 and a Flyover Ramp From Northbound E-470 to Westbound I-70	2-2
2.3.2 Alternative 2: Congestion Management, Adding Transportation System Management Elements to Enhance Efficiency of the No-Action Alternative.....	2-3
2.3.3 Alternative 3: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Retaining I-70/Gun Club Diamond and I-70/Colfax Ramps	2-3
2.3.4 Alternative 4: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Retaining I-70/Gun Club Diamond and Adding I-70/Picadilly Interchange	2-4
2.3.5 Alternative 5: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Retaining I-70/Gun Club Diamond and I-70/Colfax Ramps and Adding I-70/Harvest Interchange.....	2-4
2.3.6 Alternative 6: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Retaining I-70/Gun Club Diamond and Adding I-70/Picadilly and I-70/Harvest Interchanges	2-4



2.3.7 Alternative 7: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Closing I-70/Gun Club Diamond and Adding I-70/Picadilly Interchange	2-6
2.3.8 Alternative 8: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Closing I-70/Gun Club Diamond, Retaining Colfax Ramps and Adding I-70/Harvest Interchange.....	2-6
2.3.9 Alternative 9: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Closing I-70/Gun Club Diamond and Adding I-70/Harvest and I-70/Picadilly Interchanges	2-6
2.4 Level 1 Screening	2-8
2.4.1 Level 1 Evaluation Criteria.....	2-8
2.4.2 Level 1 Screening Results	2-9
2.5 Level 2 Screening	2-14
2.5.1 Level 2 Evaluation Criteria.....	2-14
2.5.2 Level 2 Screening Results	2-15
2.6 Description of the Preferred Alternative	2-15
Chapter 3.0: Impacts and Mitigation	3-1
3.1 Land Use and Zoning	3-1
3.1.1 Existing Land Use	3-1
3.1.2 Existing Zoning.....	3-2
3.1.3 Future Land Use	3-3
3.1.4 Land Use Impacts	3-4
3.1.5 Land Use Mitigation	3-5
3.1.6 Indirect Effects and Induced Growth.....	3-5
3.2 Farmland	3-7
3.2.1 Existing Conditions.....	3-7
3.2.2 Farmland Impacts	3-8
3.2.3 Farmland Mitigation	3-8
3.3 Social	3-8
3.3.1 Existing and Forecasted Conditions.....	3-8
3.3.2 Community Facilities.....	3-9
3.3.3 Emergency Services.....	3-9
3.3.4 Housing Availability in the Study Area	3-9
3.3.5 Social Impacts	3-10
3.3.6 Social Mitigation	3-10
3.3.7 Environmental Justice	3-10
3.3.8 Environmental Justice Impacts	3-13
3.3.9 Environmental Justice Mitigation	3-14
3.4 Right-of-Way and Relocation	3-14
3.4.1 Existing Conditions.....	3-14
3.4.2 Right-of-Way Impacts	3-14
3.4.3 Right-of-Way Mitigation	3-16
3.5 Economic	3-16

3.5.1 Existing Economic Conditions.....	3-16
3.5.2 Economic Impacts	3-17
3.5.3 Economic Impact Mitigation	3-18
3.6 Transportation (Including Pedestrians and Bicyclists)	3-18
3.6.1 Existing Traffic Conditions	3-18
3.6.2 2030 Traffic Projections.....	3-18
3.6.3 Local Access and Planned Improvements	3-25
3.6.4 Transit	3-25
3.6.5 Pedestrians and Bicyclists	3-26
3.6.6 Transportation Impacts	3-26
3.6.7 Transportation Mitigation	3-30
3.7 Parks and Recreational Resources	3-30
3.8 Air Quality	3-30
3.8.1 Existing Conditions.....	3-30
3.8.2 Transportation Conformity.....	3-31
3.8.3 Interagency Consultation Team.....	3-31
3.8.4 Air Quality Impacts	3-31
3.8.5 Air Quality Mitigation.....	3-32
3.8.6 Mobile Source Air Toxics	3-32
3.9 Noise	3-37
3.9.1 Existing Conditions.....	3-37
3.9.2 Future Noise Levels	3-38
3.9.3 Noise Impacts.....	3-40
3.9.4 Noise Mitigation.....	3-40
3.10 Water Resources and Water Quality.....	3-42
3.10.1 Existing Conditions.....	3-42
3.10.2 Water Resources and Water Quality Impacts	3-43
3.10.3 Water Resources and Water Quality Mitigation	3-43
3.11 Wetlands and other Waters of the U.S.	3-45
3.11.1 Existing Conditions.....	3-45
3.11.2 Wetlands and other Waters of the U.S. Within the Study Area.....	3-45
3.11.3 Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S. Impacts	3-46
3.11.4 Practicable Alternatives	3-46
3.11.5 Wetland Mitigation.....	3-46
3.12 Vegetation and Noxious Weeds	3-47
3.12.1 Vegetation Existing Conditions	3-47
3.12.2 Noxious Weeds Existing Conditions	3-47
3.12.3 Vegetation Impacts	3-48
3.12.4 Noxious Weeds Impacts	3-48
3.12.5 Vegetation and Noxious Weeds Impact Mitigation	3-49



3.13 Floodplains	3-50
3.13.1 Existing Conditions.....	3-50
3.13.2 Floodplain Impacts.....	3-50
3.13.3 Floodplain Mitigation	3-53
3.14 Wild and Scenic Rivers	3-53
3.15 Wildlife and Fisheries	3-53
3.15.1 Wildlife Existing Conditions	3-53
3.15.2 Fisheries Existing Conditions	3-54
3.15.3 Wildlife and Fisheries Impacts.....	3-54
3.15.4 Wildlife and Fisheries Mitigation	3-54
3.16 Threatened and Endangered Species	3-55
3.16.1 Existing Conditions.....	3-55
3.16.2 Threatened and Endangered Species Impacts.....	3-56
3.16.3 Threatened and Endangered Species Mitigation.....	3-56
3.17 Historic and Archaeological Resources	3-56
3.17.1 Historic and Archaeological Resources.....	3-56
3.17.2 Native American Consultation.....	3-56
3.17.3 Paleontological Resources	3-58
3.17.4 Historic and Archaeological Resources Impacts.....	3-58
3.17.5 Paleontological Resources Impacts	3-59
3.17.6 Historic and Archaeological Resources Mitigation	3-59
3.17.7 Paleontological Resources Mitigation	3-59
3.18 Hazardous Waste	3-59
3.18.1 Hazardous Waste Existing Conditions	3-60
3.18.2 Hazardous Waste Impacts	3-63
3.18.3 Hazardous Waste Mitigation	3-63
3.19 Visual Resources	3-63
3.19.1 Existing Conditions.....	3-63
3.19.2 Visual Impacts.....	3-64
3.19.3 Visual Resources Mitigation.....	3-65
3.20 Energy	3-65
3.20.1 Energy Impacts	3-65
3.20.2 Energy Mitigation	3-66
3.21 Construction	3-66
3.21.1 Construction Impacts.....	3-66
3.21.2 Construction Mitigation	3-66
3.22 Cumulative Impacts	3-68
3.22.1 Methodology.....	3-68
3.22.2 Past and Existing Conditions.....	3-68
3.22.3 Planned Development and Transportation Actions	3-72

3.22.4 Conclusion	3-77
3.22.5 Mitigation	3-77
3.23 Permits Required	3-78
3.24 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources	3-78
3.25 Mitigation and Benefits Summary	3-79
Chapter 4.0: Comments and Coordination	4-1
4.1 Public Involvement Activities	4-1
4.1.1 Communication Methods	4-1
4.1.2 Low-Income and Minority Populations Outreach	4-1
4.1.3 Public Meetings	4-1
4.2 Agency Involvement	4-12
4.3 Remaining Public Involvement	4-12
Appendix A: Agency Involvement and Coordination	
Appendix B: Public Involvement	
Appendix C: Refinement of the Preferred Alternative	
Appendix D: Indirect Induced Growth Analysis	
Appendix E: Noise Report	



List of Tables

	<i>Page No.</i>
Table 3-1	Potential Indirect Effects to Environmental Resources in the Study Area 3-7
Table 3-2	Current and Projected Population Statistics..... 3-9
Table 3-3	Comparison for 1990 and 2000 Census Housing Statistics for the City of Aurora..... 3-9
Table 3-4	Potential Minority Populations in the Study Area 3-12
Table 3-5	Approximate Right-of-Way Widths for Existing Roads 3-14
Table 3-6	Approximate Right-of-Way Widths for Proposed Roads 3-15
Table 3-7	Right-of-Way Impact to Parcels in the Study Area 3-16
Table 3-8	Year 2003 Labor Force Statistics for the City of Aurora 3-17
Table 3-9	2005 and 2030 Population and Employment in the Immediate and Larger Study Area 3-22
Table 3-10	CDOT Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC)..... 3-37
Table 3-11	Field Noise Monitoring Results3-38
Table 3-12	Predicted Noise Levels at Modeled Locations 3-39
Table 3-13	Results of Mitigation Analysis for the Preferred Alternative 3-42
Table 3-14	Wetlands and other Waters of the U.S. in the Study Area 3-46
Table 3-15	State of Colorado, Adams County and Arapahoe County Listed Weed Species and Common Vegetation Species Observed in the I-70/E-470 Study Area..... 3-48
Table 3-16	First Creek Effective FEMA Flood Discharges (cfs) 3-51
Table 3-17	First Creek Floodplain Impacts..... 3-52
Table 3-18	Effect Determination of Eligible Historic Properties in the Study Area 3-59
Table 3-19	Sites of Potential Hazardous Waste Concern Based on Federal and State Records..... 3-61
Table 3-20	Noise Measurements Outside the Study Area.....3-71
Table 3-21	Reasonably Foreseeable Developments 3-72
Table 3-22	Reasonably Foreseeable Transportation Actions..... 3-75
Table 3-23	Mitigation Measures for the Preferred Alternative 3-79
Table 3-24	Local Commitments for Cumulative Impacts..... 3-87

List of Figures

	<i>Page No.</i>
Figure 1-1 Regional Project Vicinity.....	1-1
Figure 1-2 Study Area	1-3
Figure 1-3 Planned Transportation Projects	1-7
Figure 2-1 Alternatives Screening Process	2-1
Figure 2-2 Alternative 1: No-Action Alternative.....	2-3
Figure 2-3 Alternative 3: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Retaining Gun Club Diamond and Colfax Ramps	2-4
Figure 2-4 Alternative 4: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Retaining Gun Club Diamond and Adding Picadilly Interchange	2-5
Figure 2-5 Alternative 5: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Retaining Gun Club Diamond and Colfax Ramps and Adding Harvest Road Interchange.....	2-5
Figure 2-6 Alternative 6: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Retaining I-70/Gun Club Diamond and Adding I-70/Picadilly and I-70/Harvest Interchanges	2-6
Figure 2-7 Alternative 7: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Closing I-70/Gun Club Diamond and Adding I-70/Picadilly Interchange	2-7
Figure 2-8 Alternative 8: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Closing I-70/Gun Club Diamond, Retaining Colfax Ramps and Adding I-70/Harvest Interchange.....	2-7
Figure 2-9 Alternative 9: I-70/E-470 Directional Interchange, Closing I-70/Gun Club Diamond and Adding I-70/Harvest and I-70/Picadilly Interchanges	2-8
Figure 2-10 Alternative Evaluation Process - Level 1 Screening Results	2-11
Figure 2-11 Alternative Evaluation Process - Level 2 Screening Results	2-18
Figure 2-12 Preferred Alternative	2-20
Figure 3-1 Existing Land Uses Within the Study Area	3-1
Figure 3-2 Existing Zoning Within and Adjacent to the Study Area.....	3-2
Figure 3-3 Future Land Use in the Study Area	3-4
Figure 3-4 Indirect Effects Study Area.....	3-6
Figure 3-5 Potential Low-Income and Minority Populations	3-12
Figure 3-6 Existing and Proposed Right-of-Way.....	3-15
Figure 3-7 Existing and Forecasted Daily Traffic Volume Comparisons.....	3-19
Figure 3-8 Existing Traffic Operations	3-20



Figure 3-9	Transportation Analysis Zones	3-21
Figure 3-10	No-Action - Year 2030 Peak Hour Traffic Forecasts	3-23
Figure 3-11	Proposed Action - Year 2030 Peak Hour Traffic Forecasts	3-24
Figure 3-12	No-Action - Year 2030 Traffic Operations	3-27
Figure 3-13	Proposed Action - Year 2030 Traffic Operations	3-28
Figure 3-14	Gun Club Road Access Change (Preferred Alternative).....	3-29
Figure 3-15	U.S. Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) vs. Mobile Source Air Toxics Emissions, 2000-2020.....	3-33
Figure 3-16	Noise Monitoring and Model Receiver Locations Including Proposed Mitigation	3-39
Figure 3-17	Existing Wetlands	3-45
Figure 3-18	Existing Floodplains	3-51
Figure 3-19	Historic and Archaeological Resources Eligible for NRHP.....	3-57
Figure 3-20	Hazardous Waste Sites.....	3-60
Figure 3-21	Cumulative Impacts Study Area	3-69
Figure 3-22	Extent of Urbanization in the Study Area: 1940, 1960, 1980, and 2000.....	3-70